

The Historian

of Hancock County

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

July 1995

July Meeting

The July meeting of the Hancock County Historical Society will be held at 12 noon on July 20th at the Eastern Star Hall at 601 Bouslog Street, across from the side of the Hwy. 90 Post Office. The cost of lunch will be \$5.00; tax and tip are included.

Speakers for the day will be the candidates for the office of Chancery Clerk: Timothy J. Favre; L. Kay Johnson; Timothy A. "Tim" Kellar; J.T. Ladner; Jimmie Ladner, Jr.; Robert Frank Ladner; Randy Perniciaro and Michael R. Schaefer.

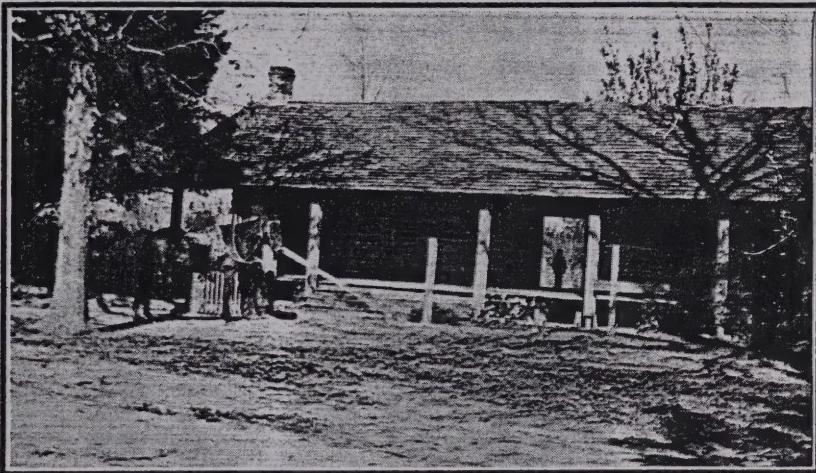
Please telephone 467-4090 for reservations, at least two days in advance so that we can notify the ladies for their preparations.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As stated before, our By Laws forbid our backing any political candidate or party for any election. Therefore we have invited ALL candidates for the office of Chancery Clerk to tell us in five minutes or less why we (The Historical Society members) should vote for them.

The chancery clerk's office in the past has been very helpful to us in acquiring the last hundred

(Continued on page 3)



EARLY MISSISSIPPI SETTLER'S "DOG-TROT" CABIN

WHICH LAND GRABBERS?

Lest it be thought that the land-hungry settlers in the Mississippi Territory confined themselves to amiable and sweetly persistent positions in their efforts to acquire the good earth, a few hints as to less legal methods must be added. The mere squatting upon public lands was of course itself illegal, and some of the squatters were never removed, in spite of laws, proclamations, and the dispatch of the Army to eject some of them. The method was to forcibly remove them from the land and burn their cabins and fences. Intrusion was quite general, and wholly supported by public opinion, and by the local government Monroe County

was erected out of the Creek cession, officers appointed there, and taxes collected, before the land was opened for sale. The letter of one of these squatters to the President is so amusing, and sums up so sincerely and naively the reasoning of the squatters that it deserves quotation.

Munrow County, January 20, 1816 Dear Sir in viewing our last Papers we find it very Distressing news for us to be obliged to move of of the Public Lands, - which will Distress Not Less than 500 families - in order for your Honour to be in possession of our Distress Situation I thought Proper to inform you we are at least 300 Miles from any State the news reached us two (Continued on page 2)

(GRABBERS from page 1)
late to Purchase lands on the tombigbee - and all that is worth living on has been Sold - had we Knowledge of this we would have land two - but general Jackson encouraged us to Settle on the allebarmer - there is also a Number of People from North & South Carolina & georgia and a grate Number of them has sold their Carages waggons & & - and Now how to get back god only knows - there is also a Number of Poore widows that has lost there Husbands in the late war with the British & Indians and is not able to Move of -there assembled also about 70 Indians on the allebarmer Near the Standing Peach tree and states that the treaty between the Americans & British gave them there lands, and they Mean to work it - if we leave our Plantations the Indians will be shore to burn them the People in this Cuntry are New Settlers and Mostly Poore People that has been already Ruined by the Indians - and Now to leave there Crops of wheat gardens & turnips will Compleetly Distress them over again a grate Number of Citizens Scearsely Made tread last year oweing to the Invation with the British & Indians - I am of the opinion that there Has been some Rong Misrepresentations made to your Honour in Regard to the Public Lands - there has been a Stop to Cutting Down timber for Several Months which was obeyed all the lands that was Improved Sold Considerably better then that was Not it went to 6..8 & 10 Dollars Pr acre that was good

and that was Not Improved went genneraly at government Price I will also state to your Honour that if there is not Preemptions allowd to the Citizens of this Cuntry that the Yazzoo Company will Purchase all the good land from the Head to the Mouth of the allebarmer it will take all the good Land to pay five Million of Dollers - if your Honour should think Proper to Let us Stay till we make a Crop it would be a Blessing to some - Particular to those widows & Children that there Husbands has been Masicreed by the Savages - it is Impossible for us at this Hour to go and buy Land and build Houses and open land time Enough to make a Support - it is one of the Most Distressing News that we Ever heard of it is worse than the Indian & British war. the feelings of our citizens is very much Hurt Particular those who fought Brave to obtain this Cuntry and Now Cannot Enjoy it if the thing Could be Rightly Constrewd to our goverment I Cannot but think that what the orders would be Countermanded though I am always willing to Concur on my Part with any law that Goverment will adopt - if your Honour would be so good as to favour me with an answer when Convenient and Direct your Letters to Fishers Post Office on the allebarmer near fort Claibourne Sir I am with Respect your obedient and Humble servant --

CLABON HARRIS

The land officers both east and west reported that the illegal occupants, some of whom had

already been in possession for 15 years, intended to remain upon the land until they had completed its depletion, and had no intention of paying anything to the government. In some cases they let it for revenue. At the sales, the intruders conspired to prevent bidding, and threatened with the force of public opinion or even with assassination those who bid for the lands they held. Most of the rascality complained of occurred in the eastern part of the territory. It was found necessary to hold the sales at a distance (Milledgeville) to secure anything like fairness. Violence was not beneath those contesting for the land. An example of prominence is the attack made upon Nicholas Gray, register in the west, by ex-governor Robert Williams.

Williams was heavily interested in lands for himself and clients, and accused Gray of shady dealings, especially of selling lands at private sale to his favorites. The governor finally, in 1816, accompanied by his partner and his brother-in-law (Samuel L. Winston), attacked Gray with a knife. It turned out not to be such a desperate affray, since Williams neglected to remove his knife from its sheath. Trickery, fraud, violence, litigation, gathered themselves around the disposition of the lands. (From AMERICAN BEGINNINGS IN THE OLD SOUTHWEST: THE MISSISSIPPI, W.B. HAMILTON, 1937.)

THE GAINESVILLE STAR, 1866, was the first newspaper published in Hancock County.

CIVIL WAR DAYS - HANCOCK COUNTY AND VICINITY
COMPILED AND EDITED BY CLYDE CUCULLU
MEMBER - HANCOCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Father Henry Le Duc, born Nantes, France, January 1, 1834, was ordained a priest there January 20, 1859.

Sent to Bay St. Louis immediately he spent 38 years. During his administration the Sorbonne or Free school for Boys was opened under the direction of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart.

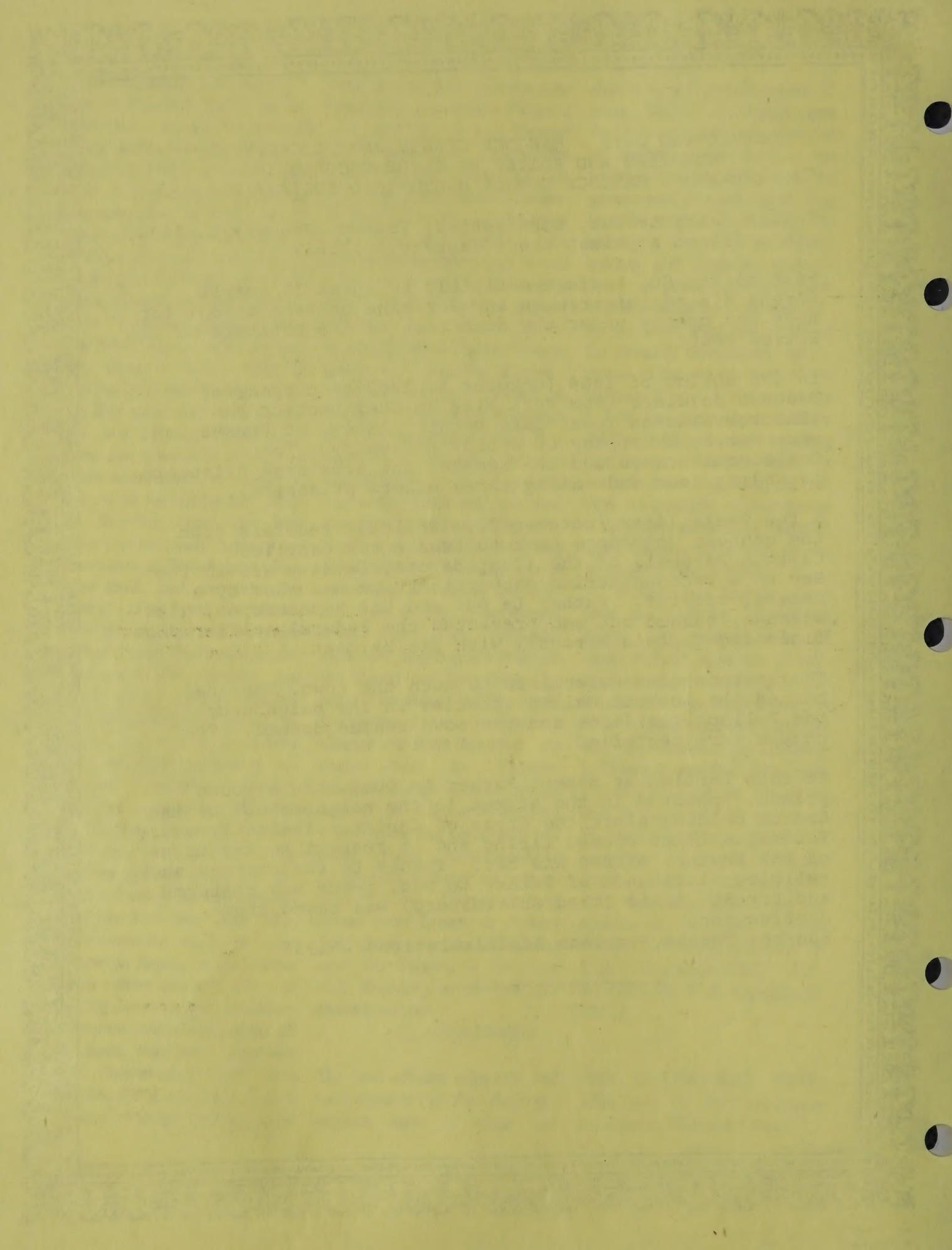
In the spring of 1864 (October 5, 1863) a company of Federal soldiers from Fort Pike at Chef Menteur (Proctorville on lower Lake Borgne) landed at the Bay and were met by a Company of Sibley's Cavalry. The Confederates repulsed the Yankees and took some prisoners (wounding four and taking three others prisoners).

A few weeks later (October 20, 1863) 200 Federals from the gunboat Commodore came to rescue the captives. Captain Marshall of the (Confederate) Cavalry was in the Bay on a reconnoitering expedition. He was shot by a Federal soldier. Father Le Duc and his housekeeper, Miss Suzanne, rushed out and prevented the Federal soldier from finishing Captain Marshall with his bayonet.

The Yankees then determined to burn the town. They had burned the Lockett Hall properties in the neighborhood of the Pollock residence and the town seemed doomed. The people were terrified.

At this particular moment Father Le Duc, then a young priest, appeared in the street in the neighborhood of the Church holding aloft the Cross of Christ. Instantly every Federal soldier ceased firing and in respect to the cross of the Savior, doffed his hat. Thanks to the courage and religious influence of Father Le Duc, peace was restored and Bay St. Louis (then Shieldsboro) was saved from destruction.

Source: "Works Progress Administration" - 1936



(PRESIDENT from page 1)
 years of Sea Coast Echo newspapers. These issues have become the chief source of information in our computers and their great value is there-by established. Please know that we are in no way reccommending any candidate, nor will we be, but you may ask questions of them afterwards and can hopefully make a more informed choice.

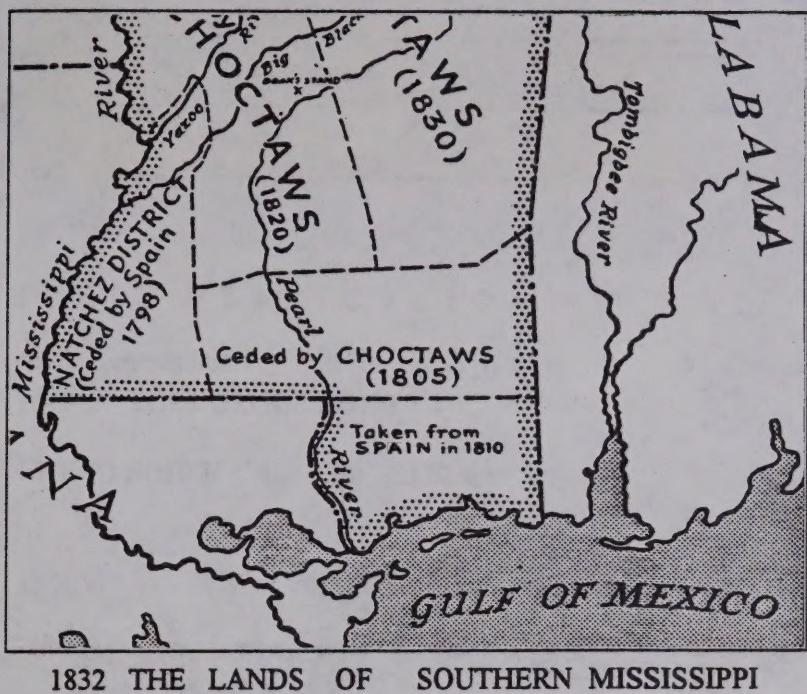
In the eleven years that I have lived in Hancock County, everything that I have asked of the people of the county has been instantly and cheerfully given: I wanted an office; we were given a house. I wanted better wiring in the house; it was completely rewired. I asked for additional work space; the President's Room was quickly built. I asked for a computer; we were given eight. Copy machine, printer, scanner, and even kitchen sink - the list goes on and on. Every week there is more.

Money has been coming in for more pages of the Sanborne maps. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Fitch, JoAnne Mumme, Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Cucullu have all made contributions toward the 1904 editions of the maps.

Basil Kennedy has donated several computers and boxes of software from his old office, now that he is President of Sunburst Bank.

Anyone who will be able to help at the McDonald-Church-Pogue house which we will be showing during the month of August, please call the Lobrano house and choose your day (days) and assignments.

Charles H. Gray, President



MISSISSIPPI TAXES 1865

Governor Sharkey on July 17, 1865, issued an order taxing the people of Mississippi for funds to meet the expenditures incident to the assembling of the State Convention next month. The following are the main provisions of the order:

1. On every dry goods, grocery and provision store, and on every commission or auction house or establishment, the sum of \$50.
2. On every drinking saloon, bar-room, or place where intoxicating or malt or brewed liquors are retailed, whether licensed or not, \$50.
3. On every public inn or tavern, exclusive of the take on the bar-room, \$25.
4. On every billiard table, bagatelle table, or other game not prohibited by law, \$25.
5. On every restaurant or public eating house, \$25.
6. On every transient trader or dealer in merchandise or prod-

uce, who is not permanently located in the State, \$25.

7. On every exchange broker or banker, or banking establishment, \$25.
8. On every bale of cotton taken or sent to market, \$1. (From N.O. Times, July 21, 1865.)

LOBRANO HOUSE HOURS

MON.	8 to 4	or by
TUE.	8 to 4	appointment
THU.	8 to 4	

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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or

KATE LOBRANO HOUSE - 108 CUE STREET

Hancock County Historical Society

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